

HOUSE BILL 1352
By Scroggs

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, relative to the offense of pedestrian interference.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section____.

(a) As used in this section unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Aggressively beg" means to beg with the intent to intimidate another person into giving money or goods;

(2) "Intimidate" means to engage in conduct which would make a reasonable person fearful or feel compelled;

(3) "Beg" means to ask for money or goods as a charity, whether by words, bodily gestures, signs or other means;

(4) "Obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic" means to walk, stand, sit, lie, or place an object in such a manner as to block passage by another person or vehicle, or to require another person or a driver of a vehicle to take evasive action to avoid physical contact. Acts authorized as an exercise of one's constitutional right to picket or to legally protest, and acts authorized pursuant to permits issued by state or local

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governments or by the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-307, shall not constitute obstruction of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

(5) "Public place" means an area generally visible to public view and includes alleys, bridges, buildings driveways, parking lots, parks, plazas, malls, sidewalks and streets open to the general public, including those that serve food and drink or provide entertainment, and the doorways and entrances to buildings or dwellings and the grounds enclosing them.

(b) A person commits the offense of pedestrian interference who, in a public place, intentionally:

(1) Obstructs pedestrian or vehicular traffic; or

(2) Aggressively begs.

(c) Pedestrian interference is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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